

February 20, 2023

Written testimony submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee in support of HB 6588,

*An Act Concerning Rent Stabilization.*

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is [Francis B. Forand](#). I am a resident of [Hartford](#) and a member of St. Patrick's -St. Anthony's Church in [Hartford](#). My congregation is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), a broad-based organization of 49 faith institutions working together on this issue.

I am testifying in support of a rent cap and in support of HB 6588, with amendments to better protect tenants.

- A rent increase cap of no more than 2.5% annually.
- Coverage in between tenants, so landlords can't push out tenants to increase their existing rents.
- Expand good cause eviction protections so tenants have security in their homes and can't be evicted for no reason whatsoever.

I support this bill not only because it is the right and just thing to do, but it is also the smart thing to do for CT. So many renters are suffering because they have been

victimized by massive rent increases often at the hands of out of state investors and owners. Failing to address this crisis will not only hurt our residents, but it will weaken our state as evidenced by the information set forth in the next two paragraphs.

“When people are evicted, they’re ripped away from communities where they have support, they can no longer send their kids to schools where their teachers know them and know how they learn,” said the Rev. Vanessa Rose of the First Church Congregational in Fairfield. She spoke at a Growing Together Connecticut’s news conference.

The Connecticut Mirror in a January 2, 2023 article, reported that “people who have been evicted reported long-term fears over housing instability, difficulty unpacking boxes in new places and persistent problems finding landlords who will rent to them with the eviction on their records.” It further reported that “long term stress “ - from evictions – “can hurt physical and mental health. “It has been tied to clogged arteries, high blood pressure and changes to the brain that can exacerbate anxiety and depression.”

I urge you to support 6588 to protect renters from unreasonable and unaffordable rent increases. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Francis B. Forand

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